St. Hedwig's Celebrates Parish Mortgage Burning

ST. HEDWIG PARISH will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee and burn the mortgage on its new church complex built in 1965. Parish leaders are shown finalizing arrangements for a banquet and dance to be held Saturday night at JFK Coliseum and a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Seated are Rev. Alfred A. Daniszewski, pastor and honorary chairman, and Stanley Gorski, general chairman. Standing from left: Henry Machos, co-chairman; Matilda M. Bykowski, secretary; Helen Pieton, ticket chairman; and Stanley Szopa, co-chairman.

MAURICE McQUILLEN
Sunday News Staff

St. Hedwig Parish on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18, will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Polish-American Roman Catholic parish and the burning of the mortgage on its church, parish hall and rectory, built in 1965.

Around the turn of the century the first Polish immigrants began arriving and settling in Manchester to work in the Amoskeag Mills.

The Most Rev. Dennis Bradley, the first Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Manchester started searching for a Polish speaking priest to care for the needs of these new arrivals.

Father John Puchala arrived in October of 1900 and started ministering to the needs of 650 Lithuanians, Russians and Poles.

Mass and Sunday devotions were held in St. Joseph's Cathedral chapel, then in the basement. Formation of the first Polish parish in New Hampshire was authorized in 1902. The First Christian Church at the corner of Merrimack and Pine Street, which had been used by many different denominations over the years, was purchased and remodeled.

The newly created parish was placed under the patronage of St. Hedwig.

Father John Puchala became the first pastor and the first mass was celebrated in the newly acquired old wooden church on the first Sunday of August 1902.

During his pastorate a three-story brick building was built at the corner of Merrimack and Union Street to house St. Casimir School. It opened in 1906.

Two years later the Felician Sisters arrived and have operated the school ever since. It is one of two parish grammar schools in the city still operating today. Bishop Geirge Guertin, DD, gave permission in 1914 for the purchase of 23 acres of land in Bedford for a parish cemetery.

The Polish-American immigrants of the parish, during its early days under the leadership of Father Puchala founded the Thasseus T. Kosciuszko Club, named for the general who was the Father of West Point and a Revolutionary War hero. The Pulaski Club was likewise organized, honoring the Father of the American Calvary. The St. Joseph Society and the Casimir Club came into existence along with parish societies for all ages. A St. Casimir Alumni and Parent Teacher Group were organized to assist the school.

Pope Pius XII appointed Father Puchala the first Polish-American Monsignor in New Hampshire in January of 1951. He was invested in the robes of monsignor in St. Joseph's Cathedral by the late Bishop Matthew Brady, D.D. Monsignor Puchala saw the growing need of a new church and in October 1951 a building committee was organized to start gathering funds. Taken ill during the Lenten season that year Monsignor Puchala was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital. He died on Palm Sunday evening.

Rev. Frederic R. Kaznocha, who had served as a curate for Monsignor Puchala and then for 16 years had been pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Claremont, was appointed as the second pastor of St. Hedwig in May 16, 1952. Several weeks afterwards, Rev. Alfred A. Daniszewski was assigned as curate. Monsignor Kaznocha just retired this past year and Father Danisezewsju came back from North Conway to succeed him as the third pastor.

For years the new church building fund committee under the direction of President Stanley Szopa had struggled running suppers and other programs to accumulate funds.

Finally Monsignor Puchala's dream of a new church and rectory were realized when Monsignor Kaznocha got permission from the Bishop to build "on a financial shoestring."

He purchased an entire city block bounded by Beech, Walnut, Orange and Myrtle Street. It included the old Chandler Mansion which had served as the former Catholic Episcopal residence and later as the Christian Brothers residence. It became the new Felician Sisters Convent. Aside of it stands the new rectory and church where the first Mass was celebrated on August 25, 1963. It was dedicated on Sept. 6, 1965 by the Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, STD, the then Bishop.

Further helping make the new parish facilities a reality were the gifts of Dr. Bertran Gifford and his wife Adele, the former Adele Peldjak of the parish. They gave $53,925 as parishioners and parish societies made donations and financial pledges.

But the small Polish-American parish was saddled with a big mortgage which it was felt would take decades to pay off.

Shrewd utilization of funds and resources by Monsignor Kaznocha and finally the work of the beano committee paid off the mortgage in 12 years after the church was built. It also long delayed improvements and final embellishments to be made to all the parish property.

On Saturday evening, Sept. 17, the parish is going to have a big 75th anniversary celebration and mortgage burning at JFK Coliseum. There will be a big banquet and dancing to the music of a well known polka band. The following day, there will be a mass of thanksgiving.

NEW ST. HEDWIG CHURCH at the corner of Beech and Orange Streets was blessed and dedicated on Sept. 6, 1965. Twelve years later parishioners are burning the mortgage on the ediface, parish hall and rectory this coming weekend.
(Staff Photo by Maurice McQuillen)

Advance Notice

Mark Your Calendar

Reserve Now

ST. HEDWIG'S
DIAMOND JUBILEE
and
BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE

J. F. K. COLISEUM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1977

Cocktail Hour 5 - 6 — Dinner & Dancing to Follow

DONATION $8.00 PER PERSON

TICKETS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

REV. ALFRED DANISZEWSKI, CHAIRMAN

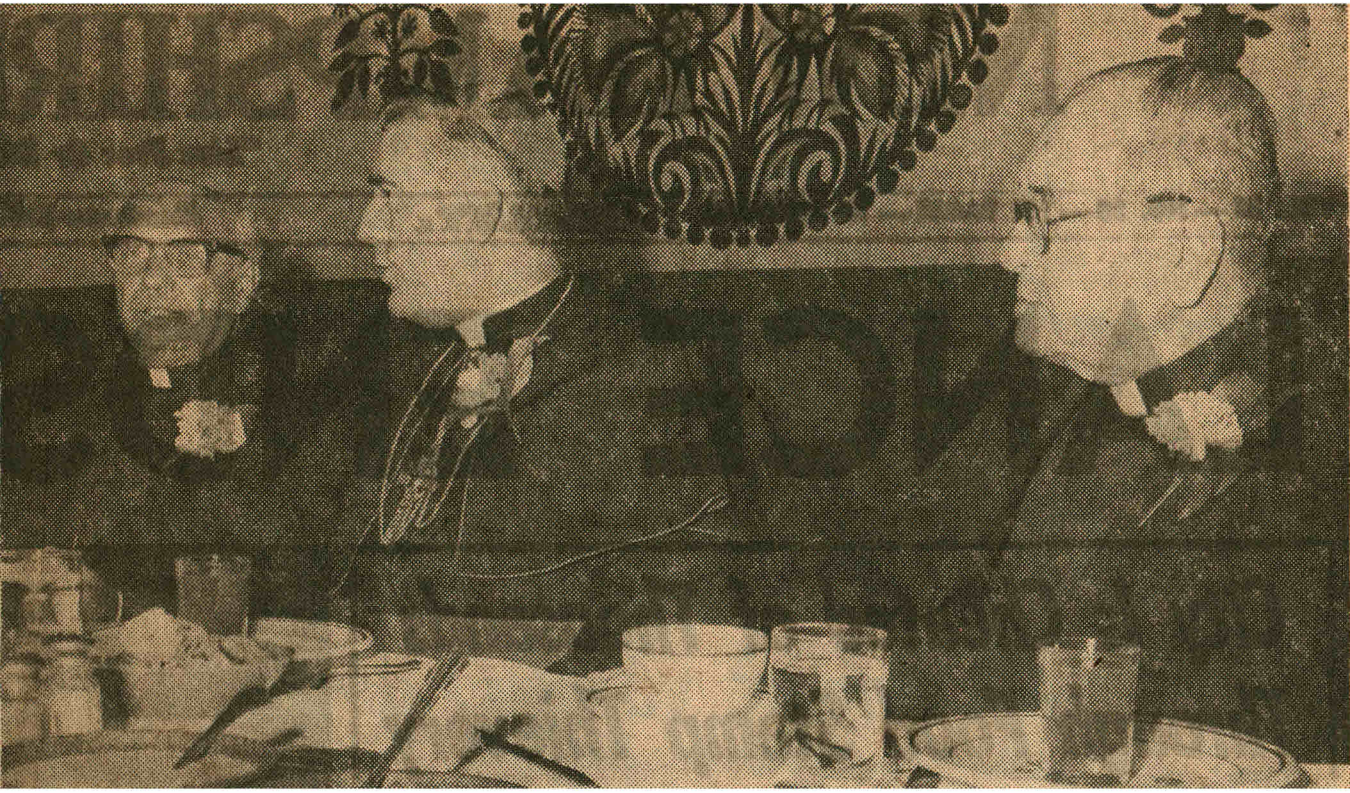
STANLEY GORSKI, STANLEY SZOPA, HENRY MACHOS, CO-CHAIRMEN

STELLA GORSKI
SOPHIE BESERDETSKY
MATILDA BYKOWSKI
KATHY PHILBERT
FRANK PIECUCH
JOHN WALAS
STANLEY ZAJDEL
JOHN TURCZYN
STANLEY KRYCKI

ANN MACHOS
GENEVIEVE MCLOSKEY
GERTRUDE WALAS
MARY KRZYSTYNIAK
STANLEY DYDO
JOHN MAKARA
JOHN GLADYSZ
STANLEY LACHETA
ED MCQUILLEN

HELEN PIETON, TICKETS

Get Your Tickets Early - See You All at J.F.K. Sept. 17, 1977



SEVENTY-FIFTH anniversary of St. Hedwig Parish was celebrated at a dinner-dance at JFK Coliseum Saturday night. Dignitaries on hand included, from left, the Right Rev. Walter A. Slowakiewich of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Bishop Robert Mulvee, and retired Msgr. Frederic Kaznocha, who was pastor when the church was built.

(Staff Photo by P. Harrigan)

ST. HEDWIG'S CHURCH

75th Anniversary

and

The Burning of the Mortgage

J. F. K. Coliseum — Saturday, September 17, 1977

Cocktail Hour 5-6 Dinner & Dance To Follow

DONATION: $8.00 per person

No. 9999

ST HEDWIGS 75TH & BURNING OF THE MORTGAGE SEPT. 17, 1977

INCOME:	5,496.00 (687)		5,496.00
EXPENSES:			
SEEDY WEEDY (3 CENTERPIECES)		45.00	
PARKS & RECREATION		30.00	
MANCHESTER POLICE DEPT		168.77	
DIXIELAND FLORISTS		161.50	
MCLAUGHLIN MAYFLOWER (CHAIRS & TABLES)		356.25	
ART NOVELTY		23.40	
BOB DEMERS FOIL PAPER		11.52	
CENTRAL PAPER		7.20	
ORCHESTRA		275.00	
ART NOVELTY-ROLL TICKETS		5.50	
FREEDS		73.00	
LICENSE		50.25	
POSTAGE		43.42	
POSTAGE		2.47	
FRANK PIECUCH PLACE CARD- TACKS		3.80	
CATERER (TALBOT)		3,249.10	
PROGRAM BOOKS		268.00	
BARRELS		32.50	
BAGS		1.15	
	TOTAL EXPENSES	$ 4,807.83	
		TOTAL EXPENSES	4,807.83
		NET PROFIT	688.17